بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

State of Palestine
Ministry of Local Government
Minister's Office

دولـــــة فلسطيـــــن
وزارة الحكـــم المحلـــي
مكتب الوزير

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To International and Local Partners
Help and save residence of Khirbet Susiya south of Hebron Hills

On behalf of H. E. the Prime Minister and myself, kindly accept our deep appreciation for your continuous support to the Palestinian development process.

The Palestinian village of Khirbet Susiya has existed in the South Hebron Hills since the 19th century. In 1983, the Israeli settlement of Susiya was established near the village, on Palestinian land. Since then, the Israeli authorities and the Israeli settlers have been working to force the Palestinian residents out of the area. These villagers have always practiced a unique lifestyle: most of them are cave dwellers and find their livelihood in sheep - and goat herding and small crop farming.

Over these years residence of this village have suffered unceasing harassment by the Israeli army and settlers. Their dwellings are repeatedly demolished, water cisterns ruined and sealed, and their crops destroyed.

On the first of August an Israeli court was held in order to discuss the demolishing of the village and the court decide to postpone the decision to the next court meeting which will be held on the 15th of August . And here we would like to draw your attention of our fear on this decision as the Israeli minister of defense may decide to demolish the residential houses and people will become homeless.

We consider these Israeli aggressive actions illegal as they are not recognizing the Palestinian ownership of the village which is contradicting the human rights law.

We look forward to get your support to stop these aggressive Israeli actions and decisions which will have negative impacts on the peace process and the Palestinian life.

Sincerely,

Husain Al-Araj

Minister of Local Government